

## INTRODUCTION

The Office of Product and Industry Standards in the Division of Consumer Protection has the responsibility of ensuring that fertilizer and agricultural liming materials distributed in Virginia are properly labeled, registered and meet the labelers guarantee. The Fertilizer and Agricultural Liming Materials Laws provide for the collection and testing of samples of regulated materials and for assessments for variance from guarantee on deficient lots. When it is possible to identify the purchaser of the deficient material, the assessment is paid to that purchaser. These laws protect the consumer and enhance fair competition between manufacturers in the marketplace, as well as provide the basis for service to other State agencies.

During the 2005-2006 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 872,220 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is an increase of 49,979 tons or 6% above the 2004-2005 reported tonnage of 822,241 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes gypsum, soil amendments, soil conditioners and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2005-2006 was 521,818 tons which is a decrease of 45,968 tons or 9% below the farm use tonnage for 2004-2005 of 567,786. Non-farm use tonnage for 2005-2006 was 350,402 tons which is an increase of 95,948 tons or 27% above the 2004-2005 reported tonnage of 254,454.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 633,847 tons sold during the 2005-2006 fiscal year. This is an increase of 115,473 tons or 18% above fiscal year 2004-2005 reported tonnage of 518,374.